

# The Daily Gazetteer.

Nov. 1393

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 7. 1739.

91. 1391.

TO RALPH FREEMAN, Esq.

SIR,



AM among the Number of those who by an honourable Attachment to the Government, and having Friends of some Interest, hope to have the Honour of serving my Country in the new-raised Regiments. This being no Secret, the Conversation in a Company where I lately was, happened to turn upon these Troops, the Manner in which they ought to be raised and employed, and the necessary Expence the Nation would be at in both. As the Company was mix'd, and People therein of almost all the different Parties into which we are at present split, I cannot say but the Discourse was very agreeable, and, as I apprehend, very instructive; which is the Reason that I presume to trouble you with such Parts of it as I remember.

My Cousin Tom Toffy, who has been out of Humour with every Thing that has been done these Twenty Years, entertain'd us very copiously on the Errors he had observed during that Space: And tho' I am by no Means of my Cousin's Way of Thinking, yet I confess I should have been well enough pleas'd with the Speech; if, in the first Place, it had not been greatly beside the Purpose, and, Secondly, if it had consisted of something new. For tho' his Jokes were arch, yet he had repeated them so often, that most of us had them by-heart. The Issue of what he said was, That we were wrong, damnably wrong; that the Great had quarrell'd with Common Sense; and that Things would never go right, till some Men of his Acquaintance had the Management of them.

Tom's everlasting Second, Will Widdall, then took up the Thread of the Discourse. He talk'd much of Frugality and Expence, insist'd much on the Condition of the Nation, and the Necessity there was of living as much as possible. He likewise observ'd, that in all new Levies the great Expence was the Officers, tho' the greatest Expectations were from the Soldiers: Wherefore, said he, if my Opinion was to be taken in this Matter, I should be for employing as few as might be of the former, and as many as could be of the latter. Money, it is allow'd, is the main Spring of War; I will not call it its Sinews, because I think that better agrees with the Arms of *Engliſhmen*. But if Money and Men can do all Things, let us make the best Use possible of both; that is, let us not be too lavish of our Wealth, nor too sparing of our People. Let us think our Companies of more Importance than our Captains, and lay out as little in Superfine Scarlet and Gold Lace as the Necessity of Shew will allow. For my Part, I am for having the Business of the Nation done, and not that of a few Pretty Fellows: For tho' Tom's Cousin here is to have a Commission, I should be sorry to see it in his Power to keep a Mistress out of his Pay.

This was so directly in my Teeth, that I could not avoid making a Reply. Mr. Widdall, said I, tho' speaking be your Trade and none of mine, yet, according to the old Proverb, as you are willing I should be a Loser, you must allow me Leave to speak; and therefore let me tell you, that there are some Sorts of Frugality that few Folks can determine, either where they begin, or how far they reach. To be frugal, as it implies on one Hand saving all unnecessary Expence, so on the other Hand it certainly imports providing for every necessary Expence. Now, Sir, the Necessary in this Case is to be determined by the Experience of former Times, and by the Judgments of Persons vers'd in these Affairs: And with humble Submission, Sir, I apprehend, that if this be the Qualification, neither you nor I are like to be Judges. But with respect to Officers, Sir, what you were pleas'd to say, is too Personal to be put by in Silence.

An Officer, I apprehend, is a Man who by virtue of the King's Commission exposes his Life in the Service of his Country, and therefore I suppose him as much entitled to a Maintenance, as a Bricklayer who exposes his Limbs in the Service of his Country. Indeed as you and some other People are for raising

the Question, it looks as if Officers were a Kind of honourable Burden, thrown rather upon the King than the Parish. But in this, as in many other Things, while you pretend to state, you in reality beg the Question. Is not War sometimes necessary to a Nation? Is not the present War necessary? You cannot, you dare not, deny this. Whatever is necessary must have its Requisites; and tho' you sometimes seem to think otherwise, yet I am perswaded you do not believe in your Heart that Soldiers without Officers would be of any Use at all. At last then it must be own'd that Officers are necessary, and Officers in their several Degrees: Why then should they not be paid? The other Servants of the People, such as Clergy and Lawyers gain their Livings on the same Principles; and there seems to be no more Reason for grumbling against one than against all. Is Education requisite in one Case? It is requisite also in the other. Ought the Doctor to be promoted for his Parts? So ought the Colonel. If you think otherwise, why don't you speak out, and say plainly, We are willing to have Officers as long as we have Enemies to shoot them; and if they outlive this Situation of Things, why then e'en let them shoot themselves. If you were really to talk in this Strain, I suppose you do not apprehend there would be many Candidates for Red-Coats. And yet to this all your fine Language will come at last. Wherefore at the Bottom, I must be of Opinion, that you really do not mean what you say, because I cannot believe you capable of so bad a Meaning.

After all that you and the wisest of your Way of Thinking can say against the Officers in the Army, they will still remain your Countrymen, Men of Families, and his Majesty's good and useful Subjects. Now by what Figure you can distinguish away their Title to a Maintenance, and a suitable Maintenance, I know not; nor can I guess what good Purpose it would serve, supposing you could! If Officers are not paid they cannot pay People, consequently they must either live in Indigence, which is not for the Honour of those they serve; or they must come at Plenty by indirect Means, which would fully their Reputation. You may, perhaps, smile at this, Sir, but consider, that when Men of the Sword are either indigent or without Reputation, they become what you would represent them, — Soldiers of Fortune. — This is a Mistake I have known you fall into heretofore, called by the Learned in Politicks, providing for those things which you pretend to prevent. Like Quacks who, while they pretend to perform great Cures, are really employ'd in bringing on Diseases. Your Father and your Brother were Officers in the Queen's time, and all the World allow'd them to be Men of Honour; the Scarlet now-a-days is as bright as it was then, nor can I see the least Reason for your suspecting its Lining. Let the Men of the Sword be compared with any other Set of Men in the Kingdom, and they will be found not only as polite and of as good Sense, but of as unblemish'd Characters and as nice Honour. 'Tis therefore equally indecent and contrary to Truth to use this indiscriminate Railry against Soldiers. Besides, I do not see the Discretion of it, at the Time that by Raising you declare them necessary. At the same time that you represent them as Bull-dogs, you treat them like Spaniels; you pretend you are afraid of their biting you, and yet you fall a beating them.

Then again as to the Number of Officers, by the same Figure that you call this a Grievance, you may style Discipline useless. All that are disinterested Judges in these Matters allow, that true Discipline depends upon a Number of Officers, and that taking away this, all will fall into Confusion. I do admit, that where Troops have served very long, and have been constantly in Action, fewer Officers may serve the Turn; but for new-raisd Forces, they ought to be doubly rather than thinly Officer'd. That is, provided you will have them do any Service. On the Whole, the Point with respect both to Soldiers and Sailors is, their performing effectually what they are rais'd to perform; and whatever Method will bring this about, is the most frugal Method, even tho' it should cost most Money.

My Uncle Simon Soundhead confirm'd what I said. These Notions, cry'd the old Man, in my Opinion, are of French Growth; there are some People who

would have us perpetual Imitators. The Dutch, say they, do this, the French that, the Germans t'other. And what then? we are neither bound to do so, nor is it fit for us, because it suits them. Every Country has its Constitution, its Laws, and its Customs. And I am never for borrowing even the slightest Rules from abroad, for fear tho' they should be good in themselves, they might become bad Precedents. I was once in France for a few Weeks, and I came home, amongst other Reasons, for this: That I might fill my Belly. I do not say absolutely, that the French have nothing to eat; but I say, that few English Constitutions will away with their Ordinaries. Therefore I say, let an English Officer be subsisted like an Englishman; let him spend his Money how he will; but don't tie him down to Soup and Cressets, because other People who are us'd to it like the Diet. In all these things we ought to follow the Judgment of our Forefathers. This is not the first War that I remember; and, if it was my Business, I could tell you how things were settled in the last; that is, how things must be settled in this if they are to go right.

The Conversation then turned upon what every body knew of what was done heretofore, which insensibly wore off that Sourness which for a time had been but too visible in our Conversation. By degrees we began to understand each other, and at last parted as I apprehend good Friends, and much better informed than when we met. This Morning at the Coffee-house I was surpris'd to hear the same Topick discussed, and a hundred things said thereon which had neither Rhime nor Reason. After I came home I began to reflect on what had pass'd; and as I was oblig'd to wait for a Gentleman, it struck into my Head, that an Account of these things would not be unwelcome to you. Immediately I call'd for Pen, Ink and Paper, and sat down to write this Epistle. If there is any thing in it irregular or ill-express'd, strike out or amend it. I am not concern'd for Fame, but for Truth; and therefore do not pique myself much upon Writing elegantly. What I have done is I hope intelligible, and then my End is answer'd.

One thing more before I conclude. Your Papers are very well read, because they have no Scurrillity in them, and because you do not always tie yourself down to Politicks. In this I think you are perfectly right. Whatever becomes the Conversation of the Town, becomes the proper Subject of a political Paper, whether it be or be not Politicks. For it is a just and generous thing to set People right in small as well as in great Matters. If all your Brethren would fall into this Way, a Number of publick Papers would not be a Grievance. But when Men fret and scold, and call Names in Print as well as in Speeches, there is little Satisfaction either in Hearing or Reading. In vain do People plead Sincerity in Defence of Ill-manners; soft Words and hard Arguments are the best Testimonies of a Man's having thoroughly considered the Matters he delivers; and with respect to his Audience, Consideration is all in all. For what is it to the rest of Mankind what any one Man thinks, if he has not taken Pains to think rightly. A Man does not ask his Groom how he likes a Piece of Holland, tho' he asks his Advice when he is to buy a Horse; and he who declares his Judgment rashly on any Point is just in the same Situation with respect to that Subject. Therefore the Camcleons, who take their Colour from him that stands next them, as they have no Reason of their own, so there is no Reason with them. — But I begin to grow tedious, and my Uncle is coming, therefore Adieu. Pardon the Length of this Letter and the Abruptness of its Conclusion, and believe me,

Yours, &c.

CHRISTOPHER PLATON.

## HOME PORTS.

Deal, Dec. 5. Wind S. by W. In the Downs his Majesty's Ship the Dunkirk; the Dutch East India Ship; the John, Effrey, the Nathaniel, Hunter, the Webster, Stevens, all three for Ireland; the Mary, Read, for Maryland; the Dorothy, Douglas, for Antigua; the Partridge, Pearce, for Gibraltar. Arrived the Royal Elizabeth, Thode; and the Dawson Gally, Gilmer, both from Riga for Dublin.

Gravesend,

*Gravesend, Dec. 5:* Pass'd by the Mahone, Stammer, from Gibraltar; the George and Mary, Anguin, from Jamaica; the Rogers, Glover, from Maryland; and the Mary and Hannah, Savage, from Antigua.

Arrived at several Ports.

At Dover, the Mary, Bacon, from Maryland, and the Jason, Price, from Camphire for Dublin.

At Dublin, the Penn Galley, Hughs, from Norway.

The Harris, Goad, from London for Jamaica, was well at Antigua the 7th of October last.

Capt Anguin, of the George and Mary, arrived in the River from Jamaica, says, that after he had been out six Days from Jamaica, he spoke with the Sheerneck's Man of War, who inform'd him, that Admiral Vernon with his Squadron, was arriv'd at Jamaica the 9th of October, all well.

#### L O N D O N

They write from Vienna, That the Empress Amelia having built a Convent, has resolv'd to shut herself up in it for the Remainder of her Days, there to devote herself intirely to the Contemplation of Heaven.

Letters from Paris say, That the Seign Huchede, the late Magistrate of Chartres in la Beauce, who is 76 Years of Age, and the Father and Grandfather of 60 Children, lately married at the same Mass five of his Grandchildren; and not being able to walk, was carried in a Chair to the Church with all his Family. That a Woman of the Diocese of Aire was lately brought to Bed of a White Boy, and a Negro Girl, who was taller by four Inches than the Boy. And, That M. de Basflore, a French Gentleman, and my Lord Arundel, having had a Quarrel as they were gaming, and giving each other ill Language, the Marshals of France put a Guard upon them, and, after an Examination of the Affair, condemn'd my Lord Arundel to pay the other 2000 Louis'd'ors.

Yesterday arriv'd a Mail from France; but it brought nothing more material than an Account that the Lord Arundel set out last Sunday se'nnight from Paris on his Return to England, attended by an Exempt and a Guard of Constables, who had Orders to conduct him to Calais; and M. Cauvre, an English Gentleman, was to follow him under the like Guard.

We hear from Fordwich in Kent, That Theodore Sydenham, Esq; was rechose Mayor of that Town for the Year ensuing.

On Monday last came on the Election of a Recorder for the Borough of Reading, in the Room of Richard Pottinger, Esq; deceased, when Charles Hopfon of Beucham, Esq; was chosen without Opposition.

We hear that his Majesty will go in his Coach of State, preceded by the Pursuivants and Heralds at Arms, and attended by his Officers of State, and several of the Nobility and Gentry, to St. Paul's on the 9th of January next, in order to solemnize the Fast which is to be held on that Day, pursuant to his Majesty's Royal Proclamation.

We likewise hear that Dr. Green, Master of his Majesty's Band of Musick, is composing a fine Anthem, which is to be sung on that Occasion.

We hear that Mr. Jones is appointed Secretary to Charles Hanbury Williams, Esq; Paymaster of his Majesty's Marines.

On Monday next the Lottery for Westminster Bridge will begin drawing at Stationer's-Hall, all things being in readiness for that Purpose.

Yesterday Morning several Coaches were robb'd on Hounslow-Hearth, by the same Two Highwaymen who have robb'd there at different Times for Six Weeks past.

To-morrow the Lord High Chancellor will hold the Second General Seal after Michaelmas Term.

Next Week the Hon. Charles Fane, Esq; his Majesty's Minister to the Court of Florence, will set out on his Return to the said Court.

Last Wednesday at Noon, Mr. Thomas Hill and Mr. Ed. Barker, Two Grasers, going from Brackley to Buckingham, were robb'd by a single Highwayman, of upwards of 25 l. in Money; but they happily sav'd 256 l. with which they were going to buy Oxen.

Yesterday Morning died at his Lodgings at Chelsea, Capt. John Brindell, of the Royal Regiment of Horse-Guards, Blue.

His Majesty has been pleas'd to appoint Sir Robert Monro, Bart. Member of Parliament for the Burgh of Kirkwall in Scotland, to be Lieutenant-Colonel of the Regiment of Foot, of which the Right Hon. the Earl of Crawford is appointed Colonel.

Yesterday 27 Prisoners were try'd at the Old Bailey, 8 whereof were Acquitted, 15 Cast for Transportation, and 4 Capitally Convicted; viz. James Shields, Charles Pinnel, and Thomas Dent, for robbing some Higglers in their Carts near Paddington; and Joseph Rades, for Horse-stealing, and a Robbery on the Highway.

High Water this Day	Morning	Evening
at London Bridge.	3 03 29	03 46

Bank Stock 138 3-4ths to 139. India 157 1-4th. South Sea 97. Old Annuity 109 3-4ths. New ditto 109 3-4ths. Three per Cent. 98 3-4ths. Seven per Cent. Loan 110. Five per Cent. ditto 95. Royal Assurance 88. London Assurance 111 1-8th. African 13 1-half. India Bonds 31 18 s. to 19 s. Premium. South Sea ditto 16 s. Prem. Bank Circulation 21. 7 s. 6 d. Prem. Salt Tallies 1-half to 1 Prem. English Copper 3 l. 6 s. 6 d. Welsh ditto 15 s. Three 1-half per Cent. Exchequer Orders 99 1-half. Three per Cent. ditto 95. Million Bank 111 1-half. Equivalent 112 1-8th. Lottery Tickets 5 l. 1 s. 6 d.

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